

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are canceled. New claims 8-20 are added. Claims 8-20 are the only claims pending in the instant application and are presented for consideration.

The above amendments were necessary to eliminate multiple dependent claims and otherwise bring the instant application into conformance with accepted US patent application practice.

Applicants aver that no forbidden new matter has been added by the above amendments.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NORRIS McLAUGHLIN & MARCUS, P.A.

By Victoria M. Malia
Victoria M. Malia
Reg. No. 39,359

220 East 42nd Street
30th Floor
New York, New York 10017
212-808-0700 (voice)
212-808-0844 (facsimile)

Express Mail Label Number: EL 770070387 US

Date of Deposit: 24 January 2001